

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 IGA-02 /071 W

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R 260937Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 458

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 2131

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN

SUBJECT: FARAKKA BARRAGE: TECHNICAL TEAM ARRIVING

REF: DACCA 2031

1. FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN TOLD ME TODAY (APRIL 26) THAT THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS DIRECTED TOWARD RESOLVING THE FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE WILL BEGIN TOMORROW WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST ELEMENT OF THE INDIAN TECHNICAL TEAM WHICH WILL STUDY THE EFFECTS OF DIVERSION OF GANGA WATERS. THE STUDY IS A PRELIMINARY TO A SUBSEQUENT VISIT BY AN INDIAN "GOODWILL" TEAM WHICH WILL REVIEW WITH THE BANGLADESHIS THE WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING INDO-BANGLADESHI RELATIONS. TOMORROW'S GROUP WILL BE LED BY J.S. AJMANI, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY IN THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. THE DAY FOLLOWING (APRIL 28) THE REMAINDER OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM WILL ARRIVE.

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2. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY COULD NOT SAY WHEN THE BANGLADESH TECHNICAL TEAM -- WHICH IS TO VISIT THE FARAKKA BARRAGE DURING THE PERIOD BETWEEN THE DEPARTURE OF THEN INDIAN TECHNICAL TEAM AND THE ARRIVAL OF THE "GOODWILL" TEAM -- WILL BE ABLE TO GO TO INDIA. "THAT WILL DEPEND," HE SAID, "ON HOW QUICKLY THE INDIAN TEAM COMPLETES ITS WORK." HOWEVER, HE DID SAY THAT THE BDG EXPECTS THAT THE "GOODWILL" TEAM WILL ARRIVE IN DACCA DURING THE SECOND OR, MORE PROBABLY, THE THIRD WEEK OF MAY.
BOSTER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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